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PATENT
Attorney Docket 045636-5056-US

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Alexandra Gruss <i>et al.</i>)	
)	
Application No. 10/088,657)	Group Art Unit: <i>To Be Determined</i>
)	
Internat'l Filing Date: September 20, 2000)	
)	Examiner: <i>To Be Determined</i>
)	
For: Lactic Acid Bacteria Transformed To)	
Be Provided with Respiratory Metabolism))	

SECOND PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

In advance of prosecution, Applicant provides the following amendment and Remarks. A page entitled "Marked Up Version Showing the Changes Made" is attached hereto. Please amend this application as follows:

In the claims:

Please cancel claims 1-16 and add the following new claims 17-32:

17 (New). An isolated lactic acid bacterium comprising at least one gene involved in respiratory metabolism or involved in activating respiratory metabolism.

18 (New). The lactic acid bacterium of in claim 17, wherein said bacterium comprises at least one genetic modification comprising the addition of at least one gene encoding a protein involved in respiratory metabolism or activating said metabolism.

19 (New). The lactic acid bacterium of claim 17, wherein said bacterium comprises at least one modification resulting in the overexpression of at least one gene encoding a protein involved in respiratory metabolism, or a modification resulting in the activation of at least one protein involved in respiratory metabolism or promoting said metabolism or both.

20 (New). The lactic acid bacterium of claim 17, wherein said bacterium has undergone at